Community Service Activities

Seattle Humane proudly promotes the human-animal bond by saving and serving pets in need. We are more than a shelter – Seattle Humane is a pet resource center, providing adoption services, a pet food bank and support for pet owners, low-cost spay/neuter surgeries and wellness exams, humane education for all ages and more. All made possible through the support of a generous community. Children and youth are some of the greatest supporters of animals and the work we do at Seattle Humane. Fortunately, there are many ways for youth to get involved!

The following list outlines a variety of options for young people to help Seattle Humane while also earning service hours. If you have any questions or other ideas, please let us know!

Contact the Education Services team by email: EducationServices@seattlehumane.org or phone: (425) 373-5385, option 2

Support Pets in the Community

Conduct A Pet Food/Supply Drive

A very helpful way to volunteer is to organize a pet food drive in your neighborhood or school. Donations of pet food, supplies, and toys are always appreciated. Many of these items are distributed through our Pet Food Bank which helps feed more than 2,500 pets per month and keeps them with their families who love them.

We are currently most in need of:

- ★ Dry dog food
- ★ Wet dog food
- ★ Puppy pee pads
- ★ Cat litter
- ★ Cat treats

If you are looking for specific donation ideas, visit our In-Kind Donations webpage. Here you will find a link to our Cuddly and Amazon wish lists as well as other ways to give.

During the holiday season, some stores and community centers may let you set up a Giving Tree or stand. Check out our Giving Tree guide and template for more ideas.

Make Toys for Pets in the Community

All pets need enrichment in their lives to stay healthy and toys are a great solution! In addition to pet food, our Pet Food Bank provides toys and other supplies for pet owners in need of financial assistance. Consider making mini-cat scratchers or other pet toys from the list above for our Pet Food Bank to distribute to families and their pets.

Community Kindness Cards

If you want to help animals, sometimes the best place to start is your own neighborhood. Post Community Kindness Cards in places people are likely to see and help keep pets with their families. Imagine the difference you could make!

View our Kindness Card Guidelines and Template

Enrich the Lives of Animals at the Shelter

Seattle Humane adopts cats and dogs as well as small mammals -- guinea pigs, rabbits, chinchillas, mice, rats, hamsters and gerbils. The animals in our care receive toys, blankets, and treats daily, but we always try to provide them with as much stimulation and activities as possible. Enrichment can be provided through food, new furniture, toys, training, olfactory stimulants (smells), and/or auditory stimulants (music and nature sounds). These physical and psychological stimuli provide numerous benefits, such as increasing animals' overall well-being and their ability to get adopted. Our staff also love seeing the items youth create.

Hold a Cat Toy Drive for Our Cat Enrichment Program

Check out our In-Kind Donations webpage to view wish lists for current items needed for our shelter cats. ***Or make your own!

DIY Cat Toys and Enrichment Items

There are lots of cool ways to make cat toys from recycled or reusable objects. Sometimes, they might even become a cat's favorite toy! Below are some of our favorite DIY cat toys that our shelter cats enjoy. While our shelter may not always accept homemade toys, you can always make these for your own pets or offer these toys to family and friends.

****Please check in with us before donating any homemade toys as our needs change regularly*.

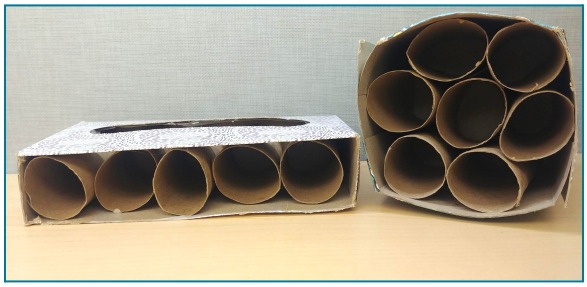
Fleece or Knit Blankets for Cats Awaiting Adoption

All the cats in our care receive a blanket or towel to make their cubby more comfortable. Most of the time, a cat's special blanket goes home with them when they are adopted to help them feel safe and loved during their transition to their new family. This is a great way to learn a new skill, or practice an old one, and benefit the cats at our shelter. We take blankets of all sizes, but for cats we suggest around 18x20 inches.

For a video and written tutorial on how to make no-sew blankets please visit the following links:
Click here for Video Instructions and Written Instructions

Cat Slow/Puzzle Feeder

This activity uses old tissue boxes and toilet paper rolls and provides hours of entertainment for our cats. This puzzle keeps cats engaged by challenging their minds to figure out how to get the treat.



Supplies needed:

- ★ Tissue box
- ★ Toilet paper rolls
- ★ Hot glue
- ★ Scissors
- ★ Treats

Instructions:

1. Remove the top of the tissue box.
2. Glue toilet paper tubes to each other and then to the inside of the tissue box so that nothing moves around.
3. Ta-da! Place treats in the tubes and watch your cats try to solve the puzzle of getting them out.

Puzzle Feeder Adaptations:

There are a lot of ways to adapt these puzzle feeders depending on what items you have at home or the age of your cat. If you do not have an empty tissue box, you can use an egg carton lid, or even a piece of cardstock. For kittens who have smaller paws, try making a smaller puzzle by cutting the toilet paper rolls in half. Sometimes cats get excited about finding the treats and may knock over the feeder, dumping all of the treats at once. To secure your feeder to a chair or other object in your own home, cut two small holes in the back panel of the box and weave a zip tie through the holes.

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Recycled Cardboard Cat Scratchers

Cats have a natural tendency to scratch items as a way to stretch and trim their nails. We are always looking for ways for our cats to exercise these natural instincts and homemade cat scratchers are a great option. Smaller scratchers are perfect for our shelter and fit in any cubby or room!

Supplies needed:

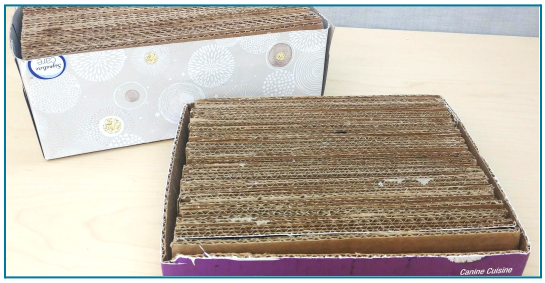


- ★ Box for base (i.e. tissue box, pet food box, shoe box lid, or modify your own.)
- ★ Boxes and cardboard ready to be recycled
- ★ Glue (hot glue, liquid glue, or glue sticks all work)
- ★ Scissors or a box knife for thicker cardboard
- ★ Ruler or tape measure and a pen/pencil

Instructions:



1. Choose or create a box as the base for your scratcher. Measure the length and height. (The finished scratchers pictured below are 8”x2” and 9”x3”. We prefer smaller scratchers like these at the shelter, but you can create any size scratcher with enough cardboard.)
2. Using the length and height of your base, measure strips from your spare cardboard and boxes.
3. Cut out strips and place them in the base until full. Make sure the corrugated (wavey) side of the cardboard is along the length of each strip.
4. Glue the sides of the strips together as you put them in the base. Do not glue them to the base quite yet.
5. When all strips are glued together and dry, flip over your scratcher so the top is flat then glue it to the bottom and sides of your base.



Here is the final product! For even more fun, sprinkle some catnip on the top!

Click here to watch the Instruction video.

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Edible Cat Grass

Eating grass is a great enrichment activity for cats!

Supplies needed:

- ★ Clean cat/dog food cans
- ★ Potting soil
- ★ Cat grass seeds (may be called wheatgrass, as well)

Instructions:

1. Place 3-6 seeds in the bottom of the can.
2. Add potting soil up to ¾ of can (leave about ¼ of can at top).
3. Add water - just enough to moisten the soil (hint: do not over water as this will prevent seeds from growing).
4. Place cans in sunny areas for a week.
5. Add moisture to soil as it becomes dry throughout the growing process
6. Over the next two weeks watch your grass bud and bloom into full blades.

Captivating Catnip Toys

Turn old socks into catnip toys by stuffing them with scrap or wrapping paper, toilet paper tubes, or anything else crinkly. Don't forget the most important part, CATNIP!

Here are some video instructions or written instructions for different catnip toys.

Or practice/learn new sewing skills by making a felt or fleece catnip toy. Watch this video to get started.

Fuzzy Wiggly Toys

Wrap a pipe cleaner around a pencil, marker, chopstick, or anything long and round. Slide the pipe cleaner off and bend the ends over so there are no sharp points. Now you have a fuzzy, wiggly, toy! Kittens especially love these.

Wand Toy

With a small dowel, string, and fabric, you can make your own no-sew wand toy!
Here are written instructions for an example wand toy.

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Hold a Dog Toy Drive for Our Dog Enrichment Program

Check out our In-Kind Donations webpage to view wish lists for current items needed for our shelter dogs. ***Or make your own!

DIY Dog Toys and Enrichment Items

Toy enrichment is one way to curb boredom and present a dog with a fun and challenging task. There are lots of cool ways to make toys for our canine friends from common household objects. Even if our shelter is not in need of homemade toys at the moment, you can always make toys for your own pets or even raise money for shelter pets by selling toys to family and friends. Check out some of our favorite DIY toys below.

****Please check in with us before donating any homemade toys as our needs change regularly*.

Tug Toys

Tug toys are great sources of entertainment for most dogs. Try your hand at creating your own! These DIY tug toys are made using old shirts, tennis balls, and fleece. Click here for a dog fleece tug toy video example, written fleece dog tug toy example, or instructions for a tennis ball tug toy.

Hold a Supplies Drive for our Small Critter Enrichment Program

Check out our In-Kind Donations webpage to view wish lists for current items needed for the small mammals in our care. *** *Or make your own!*

DIY Dog Toys and Enrichment Items

Small critters, like rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, and rats also need enrichment to keep them happy and healthy during their stay in the shelter. Enrichment can be provided through chew toys, hiding places, olfactory stimulants (smells), and treats!

Ultimate Shredder Tube

This is a great toy for small animals! They can chew it, push it around, and so much more!



Supplies needed:

- ★ 4 Toilet Paper Tubes, remove all glue/adhesive

Instructions:

1. Take 3 of the tubes and flatten them lengthwise. Then fold or roll them into thirds.
2. Insert the rolled tubes into the other tube.
3. Ta-Da! After donating, we will stuff the holes with treats or pellets to make the perfect critter enrichment toy!

Please **do not** stuff your toys with food before donating. It is hard for us to store them to keep them fresh. Want to make a pet's day? Consider donating a special small animal treat along with your tubes. Reach out to the Education team to learn what small animals we are caring for currently and what a special treat may be!

Want to try making other critter toys? Check out instructions on how to make other DIY Toilet Paper Roll Toys for Small Animals!

Other Ways to Support Seattle Humane

Seattle Humane Giving Tree

One way to help shelter animals and pets in the community during the holiday season is to create a Giving Tree! Check out our Giving Tree Guidelines and Template document.

Coordinate A Coin Drive

Collect coins from family, friends and neighbors or monitor a coin collection at a business. When the can is full, bring it to the Seattle Humane and replace it with a new one, or take the coins to a CoinStar machine and convert them to an Amazon gift card that we can use to purchase the supplies we need to care for the animals.

Host a Fundraiser

Young people are often our most creative fundraisers! You can get involved in a variety of fundraising projects and then donate the proceeds to the animals. We have had children hold

bake sales, yard sales, craft sales, participate in walk-a-thons, and much more! Feel free to use your imagination to come up with a fundraising idea.

Create a Viral Video

Create a video we can upload to our YouTube Channel. This can be about any animal related topic that applies to homeless animals, shelter animals or education topics. Contact the Education Services team for more information.

Email: EducationServices@seattlehumane.org

Phone: (425) 373-5385, option 2